













# Wilmington Journal.

WM. L. SAUNDERS, Editor.  
WILMINGTON, N. C.,  
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1876.  
THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL.

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J. M. WORTH, H. of W. Va.  
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District Electors.  
1st District—J. M. WORTH, H. of W. Va.  
2nd District—J. C. SCARBOROUGH, H. of W. Va.  
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7th District—J. M. WORTH, H. of W. Va.  
8th District—J. C. SCARBOROUGH, H. of W. Va.

On the 16th day of November, 1876, and in the city of Raleigh, the undersigned will commence the publication of

THE OBSERVER,  
a daily and weekly Democratic newspaper.

Of long experience in their profession as editors, respectively of the Fayetteville Observer and the Wilmington Journal, they do not affect to doubt the soundness of the general judgment which assigns them the duty of furnishing a newspaper suited to the needs and adapted to the tastes of the people of North Carolina. Differing in politics in the olden time, there was never a difference between the Observer and the Journal in zeal for the interests and honor of North Carolina. To promote the one, and to uphold and add to the other will be the object of the Observer now.

Of very decided opinions on questions of public interest, and apt to give those opinions plain expression, they deem it the first duty of a newspaper to furnish its readers with the information necessary to the formation of their opinions—to publish all "the news," and their purpose is to make the Observer now, as of old, a truthful, accurate, condensed history of the times in which we live. It was thus that "the old Observer" won its hold upon the people of North Carolina, enjoying the affection of its party friends, receiving the respect and confidence of its bitterest political foes, and commanding in its comparatively isolated location a circulation larger than has ever been attained by any other North Carolina newspaper, and it is thus, by like dignity, and fairness that the editors of THE OBSERVER, transferred to the State Capital, hope it will deserve, and soon equal, and then surpass, its former circulation and prosperity.

It will be their high aim to deserve the public confidence by earnest efforts to promote the public welfare, first and foremost of North Carolina, next of all the Southern States, and finally, and through these, of the whole Union. They think that this can only be effected by the prevalence of Democratic principles and the dismissal of the Radical party from the places and power which they have so greatly abused, and under whose baleful rule the South has been outraged and the whole country has been impoverished and disgraced.

PETER M. HALE,  
W. L. SAUNDERS,  
SUBSCRIPTION RATES.  
Daily Observer, one year, \$8 00  
Weekly Observer, one year, 4 00  
Weekly Observer, six months, 2 00  
All communications should be addressed, until further notice, to  
W. L. SAUNDERS,  
Wilmington, N. C.

## WHAT TO DO WITH OUR CONVICTS.

The eleventh article of the Constitution relates to punishment for crime, to the institutions provided for that purpose, and to State institutions for charitable purposes.

The only change in this article, proposed by the amendments, is made by adding a provision to the first section authorizing all convicts, sentenced to hard labor, to be employed on public works or highways or other labor for the public benefit, and the farming out of the same where and in such manner as may be provided by law. No convict shall be farmed out, however, who has been sentenced on a charge of murder, rape, attempt to commit rape, or arson.

The object of this amendment is plain to the commonest understanding. It is to save money, and at the same time to benefit the State by carrying on the public works of various kinds that are so much needed for the development of its resources. Ever watchful of the interests of the people, the Democratic party at its recent Convention pledged itself to use the convict labor of the State for the purpose of securing the completion of those great works of improvement that shall bring together in more intimate union the people of the East and the people of the West, thereby giving each section easy access to other markets than its own for the sale of its surplus products.

This policy must commend itself to the judgment of every one. Indeed, the Democratic Legislature has already acted upon it, but owing to a question that has been raised as to the constitutionality of such a course, it was thought best to remove all doubt by making this amendment to the Constitution.

By this means the State will get the benefit of the labor of the convicts and the expense of entertaining so many colored gentlemen of elegant leisure at the penitentiary will be avoided. The penitentiary has proved a grievous burden to the tax-payers of North Carolina. Near a million of dollars has been expended upon it and in feeding the convicts, and it is full time to make the convicts useful as well as ornamental. Let them earn their bread and meat, their victuals and clothes. They are generally people who have sought to live by stealing rather than by honest work. They have lived in that way long enough, let them now be put to work upon our railroads and other public improvements.

If some such disposition as this be not made of the criminals of the State, they will necessarily have to be kept in confinement in our jails and penitentiary and thereby entail upon the people the expenditure of vast sums of money for houses for them to live in and food for them to eat, without any corresponding advantage to the State. The number of convicts consequent upon the present stricker administration of the law is now so great that the tax upon the State for their keep and maintenance is no light burden, and this must be so, as long as deprivation of personal liberty, with or without hard labor, is the penalty affixed by law to so many crimes.

That it is a hardship thus to tax good men for the support of bad men is undoubtedly true, but like many other hardships of this life, it must be borne for the reason, if for no other, that it is cheaper for the good men to support criminals in confinement than to permit them to go at large. The good of the community absolutely requires that crime shall be punished at any cost, but at the same time common sense teaches that criminals ought to be made to earn their living, if it be possible, to do so. The amendments propose to give the State the benefit of the labor of the criminals it is obliged to feed and clothe. That is all the change the amendments propose to make in this matter. Let them be benefited.

## WHAT A RADICAL GOVERNMENT COUNTS THE PEOPLE.

Secretary Bristow's last official report, which embraces the whole period from the 1st of January, 1865, to the 1st of January, 1876, shows that the revenues collected by the Government during that period amount to the enormous sum of \$9,645,184,267 98. Here are the exact figures as found on pages 11 and 13 of his report:

1865.....\$1,805,939,345 83  
1866.....1,270,884,173 11  
1867.....1,131,060,920 56  
1868.....1,030,749,616 27  
1869.....609,621,828 97  
1870.....696,729,973 63  
1871.....652,153,921 46  
1872.....648,669,221 67  
1873.....679,163,488 36  
1874.....744,291,291 62  
1875.....675,971,607 10  
Total.....\$9,645,184,267 98

Estimating the population of the United States at an average of 40,000,000, the price paid for Radical rule amounted to \$241 for each man, woman and child in the country. By reference to the same report of Secretary Bristow, pages 16 and 17, we find that the following sums have been paid in interest, pensions, alleged payment of the public debt and all other claims of every description arising out of the expenses of the war, from 1865 to 1875 inclusive:

Interest.....\$1,604,726,751 04  
Pensions.....371,084,511 70  
On Public Debt.....656,992,248 44  
War Ex. of all kinds.....2,893,825,365 38  
Total.....\$5,435,549,265 16

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Other assets.....292,018 00

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